

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 XMB-02 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /060 W
-----107681 141809Z /11

R 131015Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1915
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9863

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, EFIN
SUBJECT: STABILIZATION: FOREIGN EXPERTS IN ZAIRIAN FINANCE MINISTRY

REF: KINSHASA 9862

1. ON SEPTEMBER 12 CHARGE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET WITH ZAIRIAN COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR FINANCE, EMONY MONDANGA. IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, EMONY CONFIRMED THAT THE GOZ HAS REQUESTED THE UNDP TO PROPOSE AND FINANCE AN "ORDONNATEUR A LA TRESORERIE". EMONY ADDED THAT THE UNDP HAS ASKED THE IMF TO DO THE ACTUAL RECRUITING AND THAT IF THE UNDP AND THE IMF CANNOT FIND AN APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE, THE EC HAS OFFERED TO TRY TO RECRUIT AND FINANCE THE "ORDONNATEUR". EMONY NOTED THAT THE ZAIRIANS PREFER THAT HE BE NEITHER BELGIAN NOR FRENCH.

2. EMONY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS REQUESTED THE FRENCH TO SUPPLY TWO "COOPERANTS" FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE TAX COLLECTION SERVICE

OF THE MINISTRY.

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3. EMONY ALSO REPORTED THAT HIS MINISTRY IS HAVING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES NEGOTIATING WITH THE BELGIAN CUSTOMS TEAM CURRENTLY IN KINSHASA. ACCORDING TO EMONY, THE BELGIANS AND THE ZAIRIANS HAVE VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON WHAT SHOULD BE THE PROPER ROLE FOR BELGIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS ASSIGNED IN ZAIRE TO WORK IN GOZ CUSTOMS.

4. FYI: BELGIAN EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 11 INFORMED US THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOZ ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF BELGIAN EXPERTS TO ZAIRIAN CUSTOMS WAS PROCEEDING WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. ACCORDING TO THE BELGIANS, THEIR TEAM CURRENTLY IN ZAIRE IS SEEKING TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF TWO SIMILAR EARLIER CUSTOMS MISSIONS. ONE MORE SUCH EXPLORATORY MISSION IS EXPECTED LATER THIS FALL. BELGIUM REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN WORK OUT AN AGREED PROGRAM WITH THE ZAIRIANS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR AND CAN START PUTTING BELGIAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN PLACE IN ZAIRE NEXT YEAR. END FYI

5. EMONY ASSERTED THAT HE KNOWS OF NO FOREIGN EXPERTS SCHEDULED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO ANY PART OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE EXCEPT THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE. HE SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT THE "ORDONNATEUR" WOULD HAVE A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO WORK WITH HIM AND HE ALSO DENIED THAT ANY MORE THAN TWO FRENCH EXPERTS HAD BEEN REQUESTED FOR HIS TAX SERVICE.

6. EMONY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON LATE THIS MONTH AT THE ANNUAL IBRD MEETING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULTANTS, FINANCIAL REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA09863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-0667
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780973/aaaachvc.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e0e5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 9862
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1455686
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STABILIZATION: FOREIGN EXPERTS IN ZAIRIAN FINANCE MINISTRY
TAGS: EFIN, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e0e5851-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014